



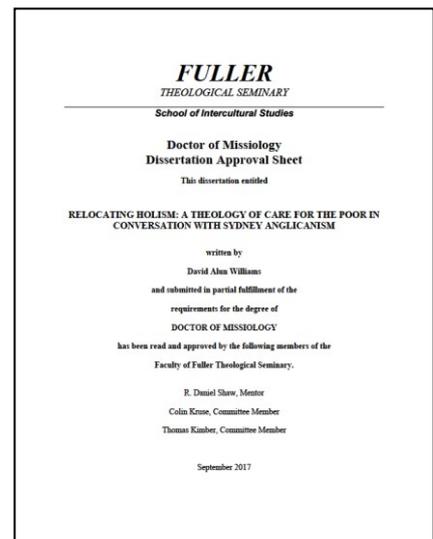
**December 2017**

Dear Friends,

**Happy Christmas!**

### **DMiss**

Thank you very much for your prayers as I have drawn my Doctor of Missiology studies to a close. I successfully defended my dissertation in early September and passed with no corrections. The title was 'Relocating Holism: A Theology of Care for the Poor in Conversation with Sydney Anglicanism'. I have learned a great deal and, for the most part, I've enjoyed the process and all the reading and writing involved. It has been a privilege to work with two amazing supervisors and to be part of a cohort group of colleagues studying alongside one another. Three of these colleagues are senior church leaders from Papua New Guinea. Rachel and I will travel to Port Moresby in early December for a celebration of our study cohort as it draws to a close.



### **St Andrew's Hall**

We have welcomed two new staff members to our team at St Andrew's Hall this semester. They have both made a great start. We thank God for them and their wonderful contribution in helping us to form the learning community in which our missionaries study. As they have picked up their roles, they have eased the load that Rachel has been carrying.

In January, we look forward very much to Claire Livingstone joining our team. Claire and her husband Andrew have been missionaries with CMS in Lausanne, Switzerland, where they have been involved in international student ministry. Claire is joining the teaching staff and will help us with mentoring. She will take on some of the classes that I have been teaching to increase our capacity.

We had a large sign board outside the front of St Andrew's Hall advertising our application for planning permission. We are waiting to hear from the City Council – please pray that they would give us the approval we need. Pray too for the fundraising that is taking place in the background. We are very concerned that the redevelopment project at St Andrew's Hall doesn't derail ongoing financial support for missionaries serving around the world. So we have taken a quiet and 'behind

the scenes' approach to the early stages of fundraising. Humanly speaking, this project feels quite enormous and beyond us. But it is not beyond God – and we are convinced that it has fallen to our generation to resource the next 50 years of missionary training at St Andrew's Hall.

### Family News

Tom and Mia enjoyed a holiday in Kenya, Tom's first trip back since we left. They had a great time revisiting old haunts. Mia got to see Nairobi and get a sense of what life was like for us there. They visited Kenton College, where the boys were at primary school, as well as going in to Kibera slum. They had lunch with Phoebe, who used to work for us. She was delighted to see Tom all grown up and spent most of the time giggling at him.



Jonathan is loving his CARE internship, working for Jeremy LeFroy, the MP for Stafford. He now has his Parliamentary pass and is enjoying finding his way around the Palace of Westminster. He is living in Wimbledon and attending Emmanuel Church, where he's found a warm welcome. We are all looking forward to seeing him when he comes back to Australia for Christmas.

Sam and Melanie are happily settled, enjoying work, church and the first year of married life. Melanie plans to study next year and is currently exploring options for Masters courses in Melbourne.

With our love and best wishes,

David and Rachel

### PRAYER POINTS

*Thank God for:*

- Finishing the DMiss
- The wonderful new staff at St Andrew's Hall
- Praying for us for many years now – nearly 20.

*Please pray:*

- That we would receive planning permission for the new building
- That God's people would generously provide all that we need to make the redevelopment possible, enabling the next 50 years of missionary training
- For us as we get involved in CMS missionary conferences in Queensland, Tasmania and Victoria over the summer.
- For a great family time together over Christmas and for safe travel for Jonathan as he comes back to Australia.

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